

memorandum

DATE: December 21, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Bob Trismen
Project Manager - TEP-CSB-1

Proposed Action: Columbia Rural Electric Association Walla Walla Hydroelectric Project

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.1 – Contracts, policies, and marketing and allocation plans for electric power; B4.6 – Additions or modifications to transmission facilities

Location: Walla Walla County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: In response to Columbia Rural Electric Association's (CREA) small generator interconnection request, BPA proposes to integrate the existing 2.25-megawatt City of Walla Walla hydroproject into the Federal Columbia River Transmission System (FCRTS). The proposed point of receipt of the electricity generated from the Walla Walla hydroproject is an existing tap for CREA's distribution line at BPA's Walla Walla substation. BPA would prepare a Balancing Authority Area Services Agreement to integrate the hydroproject into BPA's Balancing Area Authority and a Construction Agreement between BPA and CREA for the installation of generation revenue metering equipment.

BPA would, at CREA's expense, provide a calibrated meter and preliminary drawings to facilitate CREA's installation of the meter and support structure at the City of Walla Walla hydrofacility. BPA would then coordinate work schedules with CREA for CREA to mount the meter on the support structure that CREA would construct. After meter installation by CREA, BPA would terminate the wires on the terminal blocks inside the meter cabinet, perform commissioning and conduct an in-service final meter check.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of

applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusions referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Lydia T. Grimm, for:

Jeffrey J. Maslow

Environmental Project Manager – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Date: December 21, 2012

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Columbia Rural Electric Assoc. Walla Walla Hydroelectric Project

Work Order #: 00004866

This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources No potential to cause effects to historic properties or cultural resources.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No Threatened or Endangered species occur in the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Lydia Grimm for Jeffrey Maslow

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